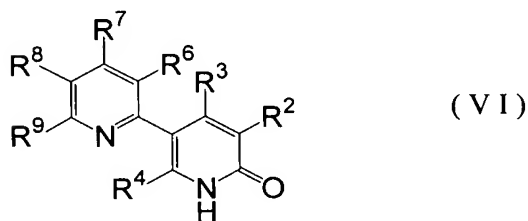


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (currently amended): A production method of a 5-(2'-pyridyl)-2-pyridone ~~derivative~~ compound represented by the formula (VI)



wherein

R^2 , R^3 and R^4

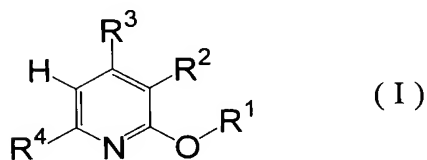
are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s), an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), an alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) or an aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s), or R^2 and R^3 optionally form, together with a carbon atom bonded thereto, a ring optionally having substituent(s), and

R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and R^9

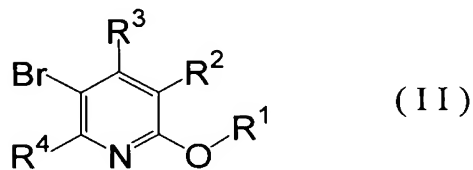
are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) or an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), or R^6 and R^7 , R^7 and R^8 , or R^8 and R^9 optionally form, together with a carbon atom bonded thereto, a ring optionally having substituent(s),

which comprises reacting a pyridine ~~derivative~~ compound represented by the formula

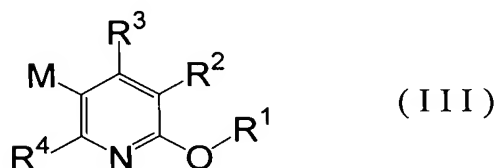
(I)



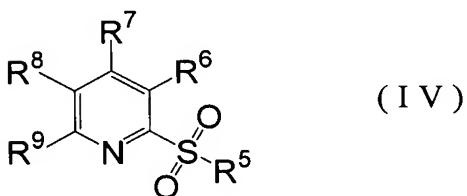
wherein R^1 is an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) or an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), and R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are as defined above, with a brominating agent to give a 5-bromopyridine ~~derivative~~ compound represented by the formula (II)



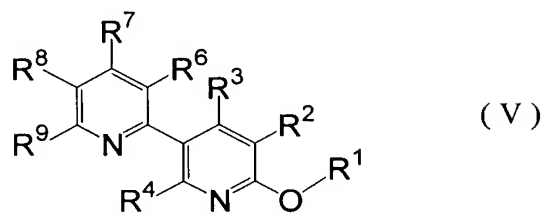
wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are as defined above, reacting the obtained 5-bromopyridine ~~derivative~~ compound (II) with a metallizing agent to give an organometallic compound represented by the formula (III)



wherein M is a metal atom belonging to group 1 of the periodic table, and R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are as defined above, reacting the obtained organometallic compound (III) with a 2-sulfonylpyridine ~~derivative~~ compound represented by the formula (IV)



wherein R^5 is an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) or an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), and R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and R^9 are as defined above, to give a 6-alkoxy-3,2'-bipyridine ~~derivative~~ compound represented by the formula (V)



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and R^9 are as defined above, and hydrolyzing the obtained 6-alkoxy-3,2'-bipyridine derivative compound (V).

Claim 7 (previously presented): The production method of claim 6, wherein the organometallic compound is a compound of the formula (III) wherein M is a lithium atom.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The production method of claim 6 or 7, wherein, in the formula (VI), R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and R^9 are each a hydrogen atom.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The production method of claim 6 or 7, wherein, in the formula (I), R^1 is a methyl group.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The production method of claim 6 or 7, wherein, in the formula (IV), R^5 is a phenyl group.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The production method of claim 6, wherein the metallizing agent is an n-butyllithium.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The production method of claim 6, wherein the brominating agent is a bromine.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The production method of claim 6,
wherein

R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and R^9 of the formula (VI) are each a hydrogen atom,

R^1 of the formula (I) is a methyl group;

the brominating agent is a bromine;

the metallizing agent is an n-butyllithium;

the organometallic compound is a compound of the formula (III) wherein M is a lithium atom; and

R^5 of the formula (IV) is a phenyl group.

14. (new) The production method of claim 6, wherein said pyridine compound of formula (I) is reacted at a temperature of 0 to 80°C.

15. (new) The production method of claim 6, wherein said pyridine compound of formula (I) is reacted in the presence of a base.

16. (new) The production process of claim 6, further comprising isolation of said 5-bromopyridine compound (II).

17. (new) The production process of claim 6, wherein said metallizing agent is at least one selected from the group consisting of an alkyl lithium compound, a Grignard reagent, lithium, magnesium and sodium.

18. (new) The production process of claim 6, wherein reacting said 5-bromopyridine compound (II) is conducted in at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of an aliphatic hydrocarbon, an aromatic hydrocarbon and an ether.

19. (new) The production process of claim 6, wherein said 2-sulfonylpyridine compound (IV) is added to a reaction mixture containing said organometallic compound (III).

20. (new) The production process of claim 6, wherein a reaction mixture containing said organometallic compound (III) is added to a solution comprising said 2-sulfonylpyridine compound (IV).

21. (new) The production process of claim 19, wherein said 2-sulfonylpyridine compound (IV) is added as a concentration of 1-80 wt. in a solvent.

22. (new) The production process of claim 6, wherein said 6-alkoxy-3-2'-bipyridine compound (V) is hydrolyzed without isolation and purification.

23. (new) The production process of claim 6, wherein said 6-alkoxy-3-2'-bipyridine compound (V) is hydrolyzed in the presence of an acid.